

From: *The Most Notable Whistleblowers of the 20th and 21st Centuries* by Guy Boulianne

NAME	DOB & PLACE	COUNTRY	EXPOSED	RESULT	NOTES
A. Ernest Fitzgerald	July 31, 1926 Birmingham, Alabama	USA	Pentagon DOD Fraud Lockheed C-5A Galaxy	Civil Service Reform Act 1978 to protect whistleblowers	Died at 92 on January 31, 2019
Peter Buxtun (Peter Jan Buxbaum)	September 29, 1937 in Prague, Czech.	USA	Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in Negro Males	Led to National Research Act of 1974	Died at 86 on May 18, 2024
Daniel Ellsberg	April 7, 1931 in Chicago, IL	USA	Pentagon Papers in 1971	Helped end Vietnam War	Died at 92 on June 16, 2023
Frank Serpico	April 14, 1936 in Brooklyn, NY	USA	NYPD Corruption, graft, etc.	Broke the "blue wall"	Movie & documentary
W. Mark Felt	August 17, 1913 in Twin Falls, ID	USA	FBI Director who exposed Watergate		"Deep Throat" Movie "The Man Who Brought Down the White House" 2017 Died at 95 on Dec. 18. 2008
Karen Silkwood	February 19, 1946 in Longview, TX	USA	Kerr-McGee plutonium safety issues	Industrial safety improvements and awareness	Most likely murdered November 13, 1974 near Crescent, OK car wreck
Henri Pezerat	April 12, 1928 in Chalon-sur-Saone, France	France	Asbestos health dangers; long delay between science and regulations	<i>Lanceur d'alerte</i> Rigorous toxicology, public engagement & solidarity with victims	Died Feb 16, 2009 at 80
Mordechai Vanunu	October 13, 1954 in Marrakesh, Morocco	Israel	Israel's nuclear arsenal	Arms control debates and non-proliferation efforts	They abducted him back to Israel and he can't leave.
Erin Brockovich	June 22, 1960 in Lawrence, KS	USA	PG&E pollution of Hinkley, CA with hexavalent chromium	Environmental awareness, huge lawsuit win. One determined	Movie "Erin Brockovich"

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				individual can ignite systemic change.	
Jeffrey Wigand	December 17, 1942 in NYC	USA	Tobacco industry lies, fake research on "safer cigarettes"	States sued tobacco companies over Medicaid spent on tobacco related illnesses.	One voice armed with facts can dismantle decades of deception.
Ron Ridenhour	April 6, 1946 in Oakland, CA	USA	Vietnam My Lai massacre by US Army	Public outrage; Army internal inquiry, charges filed	
Perry Fellwock a.k.a. Winslow Peck	1947 in Joplin, MO	USA	NSA as a vast, globe-spanning surveillance network with no oversight.	1978 FISA Act	First NSA whistleblower
Andre Cicolella	November 14, 1945 in Soissons, France	France	dangers of glycol ethers, solvents used in paints, inks, cleaners, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals	France's environmental health movement; lanceurs d'alerte seen as valued sentinels of democracy, stricter regulation.	
Allan Cutler	Ottawa	Canada	Irregular procurement practices in advertising and sponsorship sector.	Federal Accountability Act, whistleblower protections & procurement reforms	
Paul van Buitenen	May 28, 1957 in the Netherlands	EU	A dossier of irregularities, mismanagement, fraud, and cronyism within EU	Creation of OLAF (EU Anti-Fraud Office) Entire Santer Commission resigned. Public outrage over	Popularized whistleblower archetype and EU legislation, including 2019 Whistleblower directive.

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			Commission and gave it to Parliament.	corruption could force change.	
Christoph Meili	April 21, 1968 in Switzerland	Switzerland	Historical ledgers that aided Holocaust victims recover assets from Nazi era.	\$1.25 billion settlement with Swiss banks.	Violating Swiss bank secrecy laws was a big deal. Switzerland claimed neutrality in WWII but aided Nazis.
Sherron Watkins	August 28, 1959 in Tomball, TX	USA	Enron	Fueled demands for reform, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002.	Normalized corporate whistleblowing as civic duty vs. disloyalty.
Irene Frachon	1963	France	Mediator (benfluorex) lethal side effects	Resignation of France's drug regulatory agency & various reforms in drug industry.	2016 film, La Fille de Brest or 150 Milligrams
Chelsea Manning	December 17, 1987 i Crescent, OK	USA	Atrocities in Iraqi and Afghanistan War	Influenced public discourse on civilian casualties, torture, & diplomacy.	Obama commuted sentence; trans
Herve Falciani	January 9, 1972 in Monaco	Switzerland/France	How Swiss banks helped wealthy individuals, politicians, celebrities, arms dealers, and criminals evade taxes, launder money, and conceal assets.	Global investigations, billions in recovered taxes, criminal convictions and erosion of Swiss banking secrecy. Accelerated "automatic information	Showed the power of one insider with technical access to challenge entrenched secrecy.

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				exchange." Billions in taxes recovered.	
Edward Snowden	June 21, 1983 in Elizabeth City, NC	USA	Global surveillance of NSA and its content.	turning point when ordinary citizens realized how governments & corporations collect and use their data.	Movie "Snowden"
Antoine Deltour	March 3, 1986 in Epinal, France	Luxembourg	Secret agreements between Lux tax authorities and multinational corporations that reduced their tax bills.	Highlighted how legal but aggressive tax planning bordered on avoidance; global 15% tax agreement.	Luxembourg a hub for aggressive corporate tax avoidance. He worked for Price WaterhouseCooper
Frances Haugen	1984 in Iowa City, Iowa	USA	Facebook Files: internal docs showing they knew its platform harmed teenage girls, amplified misinformation & hate speech, fueled ethnic violence abroad, and prioritized profits over safety.	Minor changes, public awareness of how devious social media is.	
John Barnett	February 23, 1962	USA	Safety and Quality control failure in production of Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Boeing prioritized	Heightened regulatory attention on 787 program and stronger whistleblower	Ruled a suicide due to severe personal distress from ongoing legal battle. Family

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			speed and profits over safety.	protections in aviation industry.	filed wrongful death suit against Boeing.
Katharine Gun	1974 in Taiwan	UK	NSA request for compromising personal and professional info to pressure certain countries into supporting a UN resolution authorizing war in Iraq.		2019 Film "Official Secrets"
Thomas Andrews Drake	1957	USA	Waste, Fraud, and potential constitutional violations in NSA surveillance programs.	Illuminated critical issues of governance, surveillance and accountability in post-9/11 era. Debates on Espionage Act reform, whistleblower protections.	
Bradley Birkenfeld	February 26, 1965 in Boston, MA	Switzerland/USA	Swiss banking secrets.	IRS recovered over \$11B in back taxes, penalties, and interest. Overhauls to bank policies.	IRS awarded him \$104M
Maureen Kearney	1956 in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland	France	Sharing of critical nuclear know-how including aspects of the European Pressurized Reactor	Concerns that China would begin their own manufacturing and take business	Film <i>La Syndicaliste</i> (The Sitting Duck) 2022

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			tech and fuel cycle expertise.	and jobs away from France.	
Michael Woodford	June 12, 1960 in Liverpool, England	Japan	Olympus exec who questioned schemes to hide investment losses of \$1.5-1.7B by shuffling them through sketchy deals.	Major governance reforms in Japan and stronger independent director requirements and greater transparency.	
Reality Winner	December 4, 1991 in Kingsville, TX	USA	NSA intelligence report detailed Russian attempts to hack US election infrastructure ahead of 2016 election.		
Susan Fowler	1992 in rural Oklahoma	USA	Toxic "bro culture" in Silicon Valley, sexual harassment, etc., particularly at Uber	Accelerated #MeToo movement, encouraging women at Google, Microsoft, etc.	Software engineer at Uber
Christopher Wylie	June 17, 1989 in Victoria, BC, Canada	UK	Cambridge Analytica harvest of personal data of 87M Facebook users weaponized to influence 2016 Brexit referendum and US presidential election.	Highlighted the vulnerabilities of democratic processes in digital age and how platforms could be gamed, weakness of consent mechanisms, and power of a few tech giants.	
Luc Sabourin		Canada	Canada Border Services Agency		

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			(CBSA) corruption: infiltration by organized crime, deliberate destruction of critical evidence, falsification of federal databases, missing lists of compromised travel documents.		
Julian Assange	July 3, 1971 in Townsville, Queensland, Australia	USA	WikiLeaks Website facilitated anonymous posting of data from whistleblowers.	He embodied the promise and peril of radical transparency in the internet era. Forced societies to confront fundamental questions such as how much secrecy does democracy require? What are the boundaries of legitimate journalism? Who decides where those lines should be drawn?	
Roger Boisjoly		USA	Challenger Accident and NASA procedures	Reform of Safety Panel structure, didn't do much good considering Columbia.	MY ADDITION

